

Chile will be part of global initiative to study the climate in Antarctica

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By launching weather balloons the country will be part of the "Year of the Polar Prediction" project that seeks to better define the influence of the region into the global landscape in this area. According to Dr. Raul Cordero, a researcher at the University of Santiago de Chile, characterize Antarctic weather is important because it is an area particularly affected by global warming and the ozone hole.



Radiosondes and meteorological balloons will be launched in the Antarctic Peninsula from November this year to March 2019, to characterize the variability of moisture at different altitudes. These are some of Chile's contributions to global project "Year of the Polar Prediction" (or "Year of Polar Prediction" YOPP) as the team leader explained Antarctic research at the University of Santiago, Dr. Raul Cordero, in an activity organized by Imagen de Chile.

YOPP is sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization initiative (WMO are its acronym in English) involving dozens of countries with the aim of studying the atmosphere of both poles. It is expected that this project will generate measurements that help improve weather forecasts and also to better understand the interaction between these areas, tropical and equatorial latitudes, in defining the global climate.

According to Dr. Lamb, characterize Antarctic weather is important because it is an area particularly affected by global warming and the ozone hole. "In recent decades, anomalies in the Antarctic atmosphere have led throughout the southern hemisphere significant changes in

wind patterns, cloud cover and precipitation. These changes have significantly affected Chile it, so its future prediction requires better characterization and understanding, "he said.

Under the initiative, using a remote sensing system based on a visible laser (LIDAR) to monitor cloudiness it is also contemplated and, in particular, to determine the content of ice in clouds. Measurements shall be made on a scientific platform of the University of Santiago, Escudero attached to the base of the Chilean Antarctic Institute, located on King George Island, Antarctic Peninsula.

In this project have a prominent role Meteorological Directorate of Chile, which will launch a regional model prediction for the Antarctic Peninsula and its environs; and the Chilean Antarctic Institute, which will provide the infrastructure and logistical support necessary to carry out the controls.

Marcelo Leppe, director of the Chilean Antarctic Institute (INACH), stressed the importance of research in Antarctica, "a place that many see far, but it influences the rest of the planet in ways that are increasingly realizing more accurately. Teleconnections there are striking, as is discovering the group of Dr. Cordero and add to others already knew, as the ratio of the circumpolar ocean current with the productivity of Chilean seas and the aridity of the region of Antofagasta ".

Myriam Gómez, executive director of Imagen de Chile, said that "our nation is positioning itself internationally with this type of research, which are a real contribution to the problems facing society today. Thus, we project ourselves as a center of scientific and technological innovation, where highly qualified professionals star in the search for solutions to global challenges. This undoubtedly favorably impact our country's image. "